

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Kazutomi TANEDA, et al.

Application No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: January 16, 2002

Examiner:

For: COMMUNICATION METHOD, ELECTRONIC COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION METHOD,
MANAGING APPARATUS AND VIRTUAL CITY SPACE

J1017 U.S. PRO
10/046498
01/16/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

- 2a. satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, pp. 600-100 to 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.)
- 2b. set forth in the application.

2c. satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.

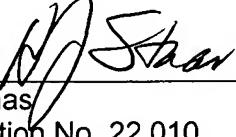
2d. enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: January 16, 2002
700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: 
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

1614.1208

APPLICATION NO.

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

Kazutomi TANEDA, et al.

FILING DATE

January 16, 2002

J1017 U.S. PTO
10/046498

01/16/02

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AG	10-162067	06/1998	Japan			X
	AH	2000-76336	03/2000	Japan			X
	AI	WO96/27155	09/1996	WIPO			X
	AJ	WO97/25801	07/1997	WIPO			X
	AK						
	AL						

OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

ATTACHMENT 1(e)

EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY OF REFERENCES	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
	1614.1208	PRO S. 046498
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	Kazutomi TANEDA, et al.
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT January 16, 2002

J1017 10/01/02



Each of the references attached hereto fail to show or suggest a communication via a network using virtual personal information which has a representation format similar to that of real personal information.